

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Changes in the following text from its immediate prior version are shown with ~~strikeout~~ or [[double brackets]] for deleted matter and underlines for added information.

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

~~PATTERNE~~ FELTS FOR BULK AND VISUAL AESTHETIC DEVELOPMENT OF METHOD OF MAKING A TISSUE BASESHEET

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, line 25, to page 5, line 10, as follows:

In accordance with the invention, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, the felt 1 comprises a substrate layer 2 having a flat carrier layer 3 adhered or joined thereto. A pattern or design 8 is stitched into the carrier layer 3. The substrate layer has a first surface 4 and a second surface 5 opposite the first surface 4. The patterned carrier has a first face 6 which contacts the tissue web and a second face 7 which contacts the first surface 4 of the substrate layer 2. The carrier layer is preferably a non-woven material, such as a spunbond material, and has a raised pattern 8 stitched thereon. By "raised" it is meant having a plurality of projections 9 which are stitched into the web-contacting surface of the carrier. The stitching is such that the stitched pattern allows water to flow through the stitched elements into the water holding substrate. Also, the stitching material is compressible. As shown in Figure 2, the height of the preferred stitched elements is at least 10% of the combined thickness of the substrate and the carrier. The stitched projections may be arranged so as to form a design or pattern, such as multiple distinct images like the butterflies seen in Figure 1. In one embodiment, the felt 1 may additionally comprise a load-bearing woven base fabric 12. The load-bearing base fabric integrates the substrate 2 while providing sufficient strength to maintain the integrity of the patterned felt 1 as it travels through the Yankee dryer 16 section (shown

in Figure 5) of the paper machine. Further, the substrate is sufficiently porous to enable water to flow through the patterned felt 1 from the web carried by it.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, line 24, to page 6, line 4, as follows:

The carrier 3 of the present invention may be made of a lightweight spunbond material. In a preferred embodiment, the carrier 3 may be made of nylon, such as a 50 gsm Cerex PBN II spunbond nylon. The carrier may be a hydrophobic flow control layer, such as a spunbonded nylon material treated with a hydrophobic chemical composition, as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,372,876 to Johnson, hereby incorporated by reference. In fact, a preferred felt 1 may be a felt as described in the Johnson patent, with the pattern 8 formed in an outer layer that will be in contact with the tissue web. The pattern 8 is preferably stitched into the carrier. In an alternative embodiment, the pattern 8 in the carrier 3 is formed by embossing. The raised pattern carrier 3 may be joined to the felt via an attachment mechanism, in a preferred embodiment, needling. In yet another embodiment, the attachment mechanism may be an adhesive. Preferably, the raised pattern layer is attached throughout the length and width of the fabric.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 5-6, as follows:

As seen from the above data, each of the samples of the present invention have a tensile strength reduction due to the pattern in the basesheet which is less than 30% of the tensile strength of the same basesheet made without the pattern. The above information on bulk and tensile strength is represented graphically in Figures 3 and 4.